

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the Title on page 1 with the following (centered) replacement Title:

FUSER HAVING LONG OPERATING LIFE PROVIDED WITH AUXILIARY POWER SUPPLY DEVICE TO OPERATE WITH VARYING POWER

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 20 with the following replacement paragraph:

Accordingly, there is a need for a fuser that supplies power from an electricity storage device to a heating unit and is maintenance free because of an extended operating life of a switch and a heating hating unit, and, also, there is a need for an image forming apparatus having such a fuser provided therein.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 14, line 10 with the following replacement paragraph:

With the provision as described above, a wait time before the fuser 90 becomes operational needs to be shortened when the fuser 90 is activated from a standby state in response to the power-on of main power supply, for example. To this end, the fusing roller 1, initially at low temperature without power to the heaters 91 and 92, is rapidly heated up to a reload temperature. This is done by supplying electric power to the heater 91 through the driver 84 and switch 86 from the external power supply 87 and by setting the switch 85 to supply electric power to the heater 92 from the capacitor 88. This eliminates a need for the provision of electric power for standby heating, and shortens a wait time before the fuser becomes usable through efficient heating of the fusing roller 1.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 22, line 41 with the following replacement paragraph:

At a first step S11, the fusing roller 1 is rapidly heated up by supplying electric power from the capacitor 18 to the heating unit comprised of the heaters 11 and 12 and having a total rated power 1700 W if the temperature of the fusing roller 1 detected by the temperature detecting unit 3 has not reached a predetermined temperature while the external power supply is applied to the heaters 13 and 14. At a second step S12, the supply of electric power from the capacitor 18 to the heaters 11 and 12 is stopped through switching or the like when the temperature of the fusing roller 1 detected by the temperature detecting unit 3 reaches the reload temperature. Alternatively, the temperature of the fusing roller 1 after the passage of a predetermined time is predicted based on the temperature of the fusing roller 1 and a temperature rise, and the supply of electric power from the capacitor 18 to the heaters 11 and 12 is stopped so as not to let the temperature exceed the predetermined reload temperature. At a third step S13, while electric power from the external power supply to the heaters 13 and 14 is continued to be supplied, the amount of electric power is suppressed to a level that is sufficient for maintaining the temperature of the fusing roller 1 at the reload temperature.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 23, line 10 with the following replacement paragraph:

At a first step S21, the fusing roller 1 is heated by supplying electric power from the capacitor 18 to the heating unit comprised of the heaters 11 and 12 and having a total rated power of approximately 430 W while the external power supply is applied to the heaters 13 and 14. At a second step S22, heating as described above is gradual compared with the heating unit having the total rated power of 1700 W, so that the quantity of heat provided to the fusing roller 1 by the heaters 11-14 is balanced with the quantity of heat deprived by

supplied sheets. As a result, the fusing roller 1 is maintained within a range of temperature suitable for the fusing of toner. This provision makes it possible to supply electric power from the capacitor 18 to the heaters 11 and 12 without frequent on/off control when sheets are supplied to the fuser 10.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 26, line 14 with the following replacement paragraph:

When the fuser 20 is activated (e.g., undergoing a startup operation), the switch 25 is closed to connect the heaters 11 and 12 in parallel. With the fusing roller 1 being stationary without rotation, heat is applied in the same manner as described in connection with the first through third steps S11 through S13 based on the temperature of the fusing roller 1 detected by the temperature detecting unit 3.